

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-52. (Canceled)

53. (New) A method of drafting a bill of lading, said method comprising the steps of:

outputting an order for a delivery of cargo from said cargo shipping instruction site, said order including shipping instruction information;

acquiring outgoing vessel schedule information from a physical distribution trader site;
and

incorporating said shipping instruction information and said outgoing vessel schedule information into the bill of lading.

54. (New) The method according to claim 53, prior to the acquiring step further comprising:

providing an interface between a cargo shipping instruction site and said physical distribution trader site, said interface being a communication network line.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein said physical distribution trader site receives said order.

56. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein said cargo shipping instruction site acquires said outgoing vessel schedule information.

57. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the incorporating step includes:

transmitting said outgoing vessel schedule information, said outgoing vessel schedule information when transmitted from said cargo shipping instruction site becoming designated vessel schedule information.

58. (New) The method according to claim 57, wherein the incorporating step further includes:

attaching a booking number to said designated vessel schedule information at said physical distribution trader site, said booking number with said designated vessel schedule information becoming booking information.

59. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the incorporating step further includes:

acquiring said booking information; and

confirming said booking number.

60. (New) The method according to claim 59, wherein said cargo shipping instruction site acquires said booking information and confirms said booking number.

61. (New) The method according to claim 59, wherein the incorporating step further includes:

attaching said shipping instruction information to said draft booking information to become draft bill of lading information.

62. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein said cargo shipping instruction site attaches said shipping instruction information.

63. (New) The method according to claim 61, wherein the incorporating step further includes:

confirming said cargo, and thereafter;

attaching a bill of lading number and a bill of lading issuance date to said draft bill of lading information to become final bill of lading information, said bill of lading being prepared from said final bill of lading information.

64. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein said physical distribution trader site confirms said cargo.

65. (New) The method according to claim 63, wherein said physical distribution trader site attaches said bill of lading number and issuance date.

66. (New) An apparatus for making a draft for a bill of lading, said apparatus comprising:

a cargo shipping instruction site adapted to output an order for a delivery of cargo, said order including shipping instruction information;

a physical distribution trader site adapted to output outgoing vessel schedule information, said shipping instruction information and said outgoing vessel schedule information being incorporated into the bill of lading; and

a communication network line adapted to establish communication between said cargo shipping instruction site and said physical distribution trader site.

67. (New) The apparatus according to claim 66, wherein said physical distribution trader site receives said order.

68. (New) The apparatus according to claim 67, wherein said cargo shipping instruction site acquires said outgoing vessel schedule information.

69. (New) The apparatus according to claim 68, wherein said cargo shipping instruction site transmits said outgoing vessel schedule information, said outgoing vessel schedule information when transmitted from said cargo shipping instruction site becoming designated vessel schedule information.

70. (New) The apparatus according to claim 69, wherein said physical distribution trader site attaches a booking number to said designated vessel schedule information, said booking number with said designated vessel schedule information becoming booking information.

71. (New) The apparatus according to claim 70, wherein said cargo shipping instruction site acquires said booking information and confirms said booking number.

72. (New) The apparatus according to claim 71, wherein said cargo shipping instruction site attaches said shipping instruction information to said draft booking information to become draft bill of lading information.

73. (New) The apparatus according to claim 72, wherein said physical distribution trader site confirms said cargo and generates final bill of lading information, a bill of lading number and a bill of lading issuance date attached to said draft bill of lading information becoming said final bill of lading information.

74. (New) The apparatus according to claim 73, wherein said cargo shipping instruction site prepares said bill of lading from said final bill of lading information.